NOTE

THE ERMINE IN WESTERN UTAH[1]

Specimens of the ermine, *Mustela erminea* Linnaeus, from Utah are scarce, and it is still not possible to accurately delimit the geographical and ecological range of this mustelid within the state. Durrant (*Mammals of Utah*, University of Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 6:1-549, 1952) defined its range as "limits unknown, probably occurs throughout the state in the high mountains." The six published records, including two available to Durrant, are summarized according to county as follows: UTAH CO., 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ (C. L. Hayward, J. Mamm., 30: 436-37, 1949); 1 ♀ (S. D. Durrant, *op. cit.*). GARFIELD CO., 1 sex unknown (S. D. Durrant, *op. cit.*). WASATCH CO., 1 ♂ (S. Anderson, J. Mamm., 36:568, 1955). DAGGETT CO., 1 ♀ (H. J. Egoscue, J. Mamm., 38:410, 1957).

Two ♂ ermines were captured 27 September and 1 October 1966 in South Willow Creek Canyon, Stansbury Mountains, TOOELE CO., elevation 7500 ft. by Lowry; these constitute the first known records of occurrence in the Bonneville Basin. The closest locality of capture to the west is Baker Creek, WHITE PINE CO., NEVADA (E. R. Hall, *Mammals of Nevada*, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1946) about 135 air miles southwest of the Stansbury Mountains. The nearest locality to the east is Mt. Timpanogos, UTAH CO. C. L. Hayward, *op. cit.*) some 45 air miles distant.

Our weasels were caught alive in tin-can traps baited with grain and set for rodents. Vegetation in the immediate and nearby vicinity consisted of Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii;* maple, *Acer* sp.; chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana;* and wild rose, *Rosa* sp. with a heavy understory of herbaceous plants and grasses. Both captures were made either during or shortly after a rain storm. The only other small mammals collected here were deer mice, *Peromyscus maniculatus*, but in the canyon bottom nearby other traplines yielded long-tailed voles, *Microtus longicaudus;* water shrews, *Sorex palustris;* wandering shrews, *Sorex vagrans;* and the Uintah chipmunk, *Eutamias umbrinus.*

Both ermines were in brown summer pelage but began the change to white winter pelage about 2 October. The smallest ♂ died 14 January 1967 of unknown causes while in winter pelage and was prepared as a specimen, Ecology and Epizoology Research No. 16712. Conventional measurements in mm. were: 220 - 58 - 29 - 8; weight 32.1 g.

On geographic grounds and because of its small size this specimen is referred to the subspecies *Mustela erminea muricus* (Bangs).—Elbert J. Lowry[2] and Harold J. Egoscue[2].

1. The work was accomplished under Dugway Proving Ground U. S. Army Research and Development Contract No. DA-42-007-AMC-227(R) with the University of Utah and reported as Ecology and Epizoology Research Contribution No. 139.

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BOOK NOTICE

Taxonomic Review: Miridae of the Nevada Test Site and the Western United States. By Harry H. Knight. Brigham Young Univ. Sci. Bull., Biol. Ser., IX, (3):1-282, 318 text-figs., 1968.

This work is an exhaustive treatise of the mirids of the Nevada Test Site which is located about 70 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, in the southeastern part of Nye County. The area is approximately 1,300 square miles in size. It is included in the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range which consists of about 4,000 square miles.

Dr. Knight has summarized his study as follows: "Approximately 5,000 specimens of plant bugs were collected at the Nevada Test Site between 1959